

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00270 132217Z

10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6566

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 00270

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON GOC DETAINEES

1. AT LUNCH FOR VFW COMMANDER WALKER JANUARY 12, AMBASSADOR ASKED INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL BENAVIDES WHETHER STATISTICAL INFORMATION REGARDING DETAINEES HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE REGULATIONS HAD CHANGED APPRECIABLY IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. BENAVIDES RESPONDED THAT THERE HAD INDEED BEEN A CHANGE. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SOME 210 SUCH PERSONS HAD BEEN RELEASED IN END-OF-YEAR AMNESTIES, TOTAL NUMBER OF THOSE HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE CONDITIONS (I.E. WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES) WAS STILL ABOUT 650. THIS FIGURE REFLECTS RECENT ARRESTS.

3. BENAVIDES SAID THE NEW DETAINEES IN THIS CATEGORY WERE PRIMARILY COMMUNISTS. MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) EXTREMISTS HAD BEEN PRETTY WELL SCATTERED, AND SECURITY FORCES WERE THEREFORE TURNING THEIR ATTENTION IN THIS DIRECTION. POPPER

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